

## Commissioner's Weekly Wrap Up

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DCS Communications Office

**April 30, 2004**

### **This Week In Central Office**

#### Tuesday, April 27

Commissioner Miller attended the first meeting of the Governor's new Task Force for Meth Abuse at 1:00 p.m. in Nashville.

At 3:30 p.m., Commissioner Miller toured [Renewal House](#) in Nashville.

#### Wednesday, April 28

Commissioner Miller spoke to over 70 DCS and social service workers at Cleveland's Hiwassee Council.

Read the *Cleveland Daily Banner's* corresponding news article here:  
[www.clevelandbanner.com/NF/omf/daily\\_banner/news\\_story.html?\[rkey=0046418+\[cr=gdn](http://www.clevelandbanner.com/NF/omf/daily_banner/news_story.html?[rkey=0046418+[cr=gdn)

#### Thursday, April 29

Commissioner Miller gave brief remarks to the Children's Justice Task Force in Nashville.

#### Friday, April 30

Commissioner Miller visited the Shelby County Region and attended the announcement of new Regional Administrator Antoinette Holman!

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### **The Week Ahead**

#### Wednesday, May 5

Commissioner Miller will attend the grand opening of the new DCS Wilson/Trousdale County Office!

At 1:00 p.m., Commissioner Miller will attend the Foster Care Parent Appreciation event on the steps of the State Capitol Building! All are welcome to attend this exciting celebration!



## **May is National Foster Care Month**

Check out the [new DCS homepage](#) for a listing of statewide foster care month events and a copy of the corresponding press release.

Please begin brainstorming of ways to engage your city officials, legislators, community partners and local media in this exciting month of recruitment and celebration!

In addition, please [email us](#) your region's foster care month activities to post on the Internet. Please be sure to include **ALL** importation details such as time, date, location and purpose.

**And mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 5, at 1:00 p.m.**, the Governor's Office, DCS, TN Commission on Children & Youth, and the TN Foster Parents' Association will join together in celebration of Tennessee's foster parents! The event will take place on the front steps of the State Capitol Building in Nashville.

## **Congratulations DCS EAP Team!**

Congratulations go out to Nicole Ramey and her statewide EAP team! As a result of their hard work and dedication, the Department of Children's Services received the *EAP March Awareness Month Most Creativity Award* supporting EAP Month this year!

The Trophy Award was presented at the Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 29, in Nashville.

Congratulations for a job well done. We are proud of you!

## **Communications Update**

Thank you for emailing us your favorite motivational and leadership quotes! Please continue sending them to [Sarah Beth Davis](#)!

## *From the Desk of Viola Miller: Let the Journey Begin*

Earlier this week I received a copy of Tom English's report of the three grand regions' Practice Model Implementation meetings. After reading the report, I felt a tremendous sense of pride in the DCS staff.

Those of you who participated were open, honest and thoughtful. You expressed your "best hopes and worst fears" in a positive way. Without exception, you realized that this journey toward excellence would be a rough road. You expressed fears of the unknown and a need for continuously improved clarity.

But you also, without exception, expressed a genuine desire to begin the journey...a true commitment to planning and implementing a new practice model that will be our road map. With that kind of attitude, we cannot fail...success is indeed our only alternative!

The Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM) will be our first target. We all know that the decisions we make are too important for us to make them alone. We all know that families must be our partners in keeping kids safe. We all know that careful, thoughtful discernment is necessary to building strong families for healthy, well cared for children.

The CFTM gives a model for what we all know about best practices in Public Child Welfare. We will not be perfect right from the beginning. We will take risks and we will make mistakes.

You've said with a clear voice...."Let the journey begin". Know I plan to travel this journey with you every step of the way.

Be careful out there, the work you do is extremely important for Tennessee's families and children.



### **Andrea Walks for Tennessee's Children: A promise in action!**

First Lady Conte needs your help! Click [here](#) for details.



The purpose of life is to discover your gift. The meaning of life is in giving it away.

~Author Unknown

There is no more fundamental test of a society than how it treats its children.

~Ronald Reagan

Don't wish it were easier - wish you were better. Don't wish for less problems - wish for more skills. Don't wish for less challenges - wish for more wisdom.

~Jim Rohn

Learn to use the telephone professionally and skillfully as an essential business tool.

~Brian Tracy

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

~Winston Churchill

The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.

~Murphy's law

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